

At the meeting of the Public Service Commission of the State of Montana held at the Commission's Offices in Helena, Montana, on Tuesday, December 16th, 2003, the following members were present:

Bob Rowe, Chairman
Thomas J. Schneider, Vice Chairman
Matt Brainard, Commissioner
Greg Jergeson, Commissioner
Jay Stovall, Commissioner

APPEARANCE

Wayne Budt, Administrator
Transportation/Centralized Services

(255) In the matter of Commission Minutes: Commissioner Jergeson moved to approve the Commission Minutes for the week of December 8, 2003. Commissioner Brainard seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

APPEARANCE

Scott Fabel

(256) In the matter of Qwest Communications N2003.12.166, filed tariff transmittal 03-34, Bulk Uniform Access Solution (Bulk UAS), Basic Digital Switched Service (Basic DSS), and Bulk Advanced Digital Switched Service (Bulk Advanced DSS), and Bulk Primary Rate Service (Bulk PRS) Promotion. During the proposed promotional period from January 5, 2004, through March 31, 2004, customers who install new service renew existing contracts or convert from month-to-month to contract pricing will be given a one month credit per span on a 3-year contract or a two month credit on a 5-year contract. The credit will be given on their next month's bill, after implementation of the contract.

Commissioner Schneider moved to accept tariff Transmittal 03-34. Commissioner Stovall seconded the motion, which passed 5-0.

APPEARANCE

Al Brogan

(257) In the matter of discussion of USB Funds, D2003.8.114:

Commissioner Schneider moved to close the Docket D2003.8.114 with an order which would include a provision for continuation of the segregation of the funds after the entity emerges from the bankruptcy. Commissioner Brainard seconded the motion, which passed unanimously.

Commissioner Jergeson moved to ask USB Advisory Committee to look at questions of cross subsidization between electric and gas programs. Commissioner Stovall seconded.

Commissioner Schneider made a substitute motion to request the USB Advisory Committee look at approaches to allocation including gas and electric subsidy. Commissioner Stovall seconded, which passed 5-0.

APPEARANCE

Al Brogan

(258) In the matter of NorthWestern Energy Bankruptcy -- placeholder to get direction:

Commissioner Jergeson moved to approve the contract for legal services. Commission Schneider seconded the motion, which passed 5–0.

APPEARANCE

Robin McHugh, Marla Larson

(259) In the matter of docket No. D2003.7.87 – petition for investigation in retail of electric and gas markets in Montana:

Commissioner Rowe moved to convene a scoping meeting to discuss the issues including, but not limited, to potential parties, discovery, timing, and coordination with other activity including FERC proceedings. Based on the scoping meeting, the commission will decide what and whether further action needs to be taken. Commissioner Brainard seconded the motion, which passed 5–0.

There being no further business to come before the Commission the meeting was adjourned.

BOB ROWE, Chairman

THOMAS J. SCHNEIDER, Vice Chairman

MATT BRAINARD, Commissioner

GREG JERGESON, Commissioner

JAY STOVALL, Commissioner

ATTEST:

Connie Jones
Commission Secretary

(SEAL)